subsidized foodgrains under the TPDS there is leakage of about 19.71 per cent at Fair Price Shops (FPS) level and about 16.67 per cent of the foodgrains is diverted through ghost cards. In addition, the TPDS suffers from diversion of subsidized grains to unintended beneficiaries (APL households) because of errors of inclusion. However, the report is based on old primary data of 2001-2002. As several changes like introduction of Antyodaya AnnaYojana (AAY), change in the scale of issue, etc. have taken place since then, it is difficult to totally rely on this report.

(c) No, Sir.

Village Grain Bank

1094. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated a scheme for establishing "Village Grain Banks" all over the country;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme along with its objectives;

(c) whether any proposal to this effect was submitted to Government;

(d) the details of the grains to be provided to the banks;

(e) whether millets and pulses would also be included to be provided to these grain banks; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to establish Village Grain Banks in chronically food scarce areas to safeguard against starvation during the period of natural calamity or during the lean season when the poor in village households do not have sufficient resources to purchase the ration. The scheme envisages inclusion of all willing Below Poverty Line and Antyodaya Anna Yojana families in the villages to become members of the grain banks. The estimated cost of setting up of each grain bank is Rs. 60,000.00 including Rs. 1800.00 to be born by the State Government as 50% share of transport cost. Each Grain Bank of (average) 40 Below Poverty Line (BPL). Antyodaya

Anna Yojana (AAY) families will be provided 40 quintals of foodgrains by Government of India as one time grant. Besides the foodgrains, Rs. 1800.00 as transportation cost, Rs. 1400.00 as training expenses, Rs. 6000.00 as expenses for storage, weights and scales, etc. and Rs. 3000.00 as monitoring and administrative cost will also be provided by the Central Government for each bank. The banks will be managed by an Executive Committee, comprising of 3-4 members of the bank including at least one women. The grain banks are to be established by Gram Sabha/ Panchayats, Self Help Groups or Non Government Organizations (NGOs) in villages notified by the State Governments as food scarce areas. The Executive Committee of the grain bank will lend foodgrains to its members as and when required, maintain the account and ensure recovery of foodgrains as per the laid down procedure.

(c) The proposal is under consideration of the Government of India.

(d) One grain bank of (average) 40 members will be provided 40 quintals of foodgrains (rice, wheat or coarse grain/millets) for allocation to its members@ one quintal per family.

(e) and (f) Millets/coarse grains have been included for allocation but pulses are not proposed to be provided to the banks.

Delay in issuing Ration Cards in Delhi

1095. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ration cards are being renewed or issued afresh to the consumers in about 40 to 60 days after date of submission of application forms, in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons for this undue delay;

(c) whether the new ration cards are being issued through computerization of records; and

(d) the details of manner in which the new system of computerization will be able to eliminate the unlawful ration cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No Sir. New/fresh APL cards are issued within 15 days. However, renewal of ration cards takes 40/60 days. At present, no fresh BPL cards are being issued. Application for identification of families under